

HONORING WAYNE GYENIZS ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-  
MENT

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to a man whose tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut. Today, after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478, Wayne Gyenizs will celebrate his retirement.

Over the course of his career with IUOE Local 478, Wayne's innumerable contributions have strengthened the voice of tradesmen across the State of Connecticut. One of his most impressive achievements has been the establishment and continued expansion of Local 478's Joint Apprentice Training and Skill Improvement School. Each year, the Joint Apprentice Program provides training, skill enhancement, and refresher courses to over 600 apprentices and journeymen. This program give individuals the ability to acquire a skilled trade and lifetime opportunity—giving working families the sense of contentment that comes with economic independence. As the present of the Local 478 for the past decade, Wayne has provided a unique combination of leadership and commitment that has promoted stability among his membership and in the union's relations with its local employers.

In addition to his work with the Local 478, Wayne has been an active voice in local and national labor activities. As a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Board and the State Building and Construction Trades Council Wayne has fought for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits for workers and their families, steady and substantive employment, and safer work environments. He has been a true leader for our working families, giving them a voice during the hardest of economic times.

Wayne's generosity and commitment extends beyond his professional contributions. Serving in the U.S. Air Force for 12 years, Wayne dedicated over a decade of his life to protecting the fundamental freedoms we so often take for granted. As a member of the Easter Seals Board of Directors, Wayne has given his time and energy to improving the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Throughout his life, Wayne has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service and to improving our community.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Wayne for his many years of service of working families throughout Connecticut. I am proud to stand today and join his wife, Judy; Sons, Glenn, Garry, and Gregg; family friends; and colleagues in saluting my dear friend, Wayne Gyenizs as he celebrates his retirement. My best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE RICK  
PACURAR

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride and deep sadness to pay my respects to a San Francisco leader, Michael "Rick" Pacurar, who tragically passed away last month from AIDS-related complications. Rick was a tireless advocate for the causes he believed in, and his work touched the lives of many people. He will be long remembered with great affection and respect.

Rick Pacurar graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a degree in psychology. He began attending Harvard Business School but soon moved to San Francisco after deciding his studies there were not taking him in the direction he wished to go.

He found the satisfaction from his work which had been missing in business school as an activist in San Francisco. Early on in the AIDS crisis, Rick helped to publish a pamphlet, "Can We Talk," and founded the Harvey Milk AIDS Education Fund to raise awareness about the disease. For these and other efforts, he was asked to serve on the San Francisco Joint Task Force on HIV. Rick was also an advocate for San Francisco artists and served as the director of a live-work complex for artists named Project Artaud.

Rick's activism extended into his work for candidates and elected officials. He worked on campaigns for Senator BARBARA BOXER, former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano. He also served as an aide to former Supervisor Harry Britt and to then-Assemblyman John Burton.

Rick's passing is a great loss for San Francisco. Despite his illness, he was always ready and willing to fight for what he believed in. His activity and commitment were inspirational, and he put his heart into everything that he did. Rick was a true friend to the community, and he was loved for it. We will miss him greatly.

My thoughts and prayers are with his partner, Mike Housh; his parents, Victor and Doris; his sister, Vicki Lekas; and all of his family and friends.

### THE EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNT- ABILITY IN EDUCATION ACT

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague Mr. KILDEE and other Democratic members of the House in introducing the Excellence and Accountability in Education Act, a comprehensive K-12 education reform bill.

Along with proposals last week from President Bush and from Senator JOE LIEBERMAN and Representatives TIM ROEMER and CAL DOOLEY, this is the third education proposal unveiled so far this year to improve America's public schools. All three proposals share a great deal in common.

Our schools are in a crisis. The school system, in too many instances, is failing to properly educate all of our kids. Frankly, it is nothing short of a crime that we have tolerated failing schools for so many years.

But I believe strongly that this year is going to be different.

For many years, we have debated whether we have the will or the wallet to really fix our schools. I believe we are now at a time in history when we have both the will and the wallet to improve public school education. We have a President who has clearly indicated he has the will to impose real accountability and fix failing schools. But we must also provide real resources to get the job done.

There is no point in misleading parents and schools by telling them we will help but without providing the investments that are necessary. This must be an honest process with respect to the policies and the resources that must go with them. In exchange for the resources we are going to demand accountability. That will be a winning formula if we give it a chance. That is what we do in this bill today.

In the last Congress, Mr. KILDEE and I, and other Members of Congress, worked to enact many of other policies included in our bill. I am energized and encouraged that there now appears to be a great deal of agreement across party lines and political sectors on what is needed to improve public school education for all children.

There is widespread agreement that if we provide adequate resources to schools and in return hold them accountable for meeting high standards, that all children, no matter their background, can have the opportunity to succeed in school. Such widespread agreement did not exist even one year ago.

Here is what our bill would do.

Our bill would hold schools accountable to high standards. It places particular emphasis on closing the "achievement gap" between different groups of kids—rich and poor, minority and non-minority. This is something President Bush and I both believe in strongly.

Our bill would provide the greatest amount of resources of any proposal yet to help schools meet their standards.

And our bill will continue to target resources on the most vulnerable children in the most difficult schools.

Our bill provides real money in return for real reform.

For example, we would double funding for the Title I program, boost funds to the lowest performing schools, and provide funds to improve assessment and accountability systems to make them fairer and more accurate.

Let me clear about the differences between our bill and the approach taken by President Bush.

Our bill would not divert public funds from public schools to private and religious schools, through vouchers or through any other means. Neither would the Lieberman/Roemer/Dooley bill.

The issue vouchers, in my opinion, is a non-starter.

Nor would our bill dilute or eviscerate key local education programs, such as the After-School and Safe-And Drug-Free Schools programs, school renovation, and the e-rate program that funds school and library Internet connections.

I am open to discussing with my Republican and Democratic colleagues what we can do to